Munnabao-Khokhrapar rail link; meeting between Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers; meeting between Narcotics Control Authorities, including for finalisation of an MoU; meeting between the Indian Coast Guards and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency to, *inter alia* discuss the Memorandum of Understanding for establishing communication link between them; and meeting on all issues related to commencement of a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad.

They also agreed to the establishment of a Committee of Experts to consider issues related to trade; a Joint Survey of the boundary pillars in the horizontal segment of the international boundary in the Sir Creek area; addition of a new category of Tourist Visa in the visa regime between the two countries, and to promote group tourism, set up a mechanism to deal with the issue of civilian prisoners and fishermen, effectively and speedily; undertake further measures for facilitation of visits to religious shrines, and upkeep of historical sites; and enhanced interaction and exchanges among the respective Foreign Offices including study tours of young diplomats/probationers to each other's country.

On the issue of Siachen, the two leaders agreed that the outcome of the August 2004, meeting of Defence Secretaries would be implemented.

Dialogue on Bilateral issues between India and Pakistan

115. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the meeting of Foreign Ministers, Pakistan and India agreed to continue serious sustained dialogue on bilateral issues after their talks on 7th to 8th September, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there have been areas of disagreement on certain issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken to reach on accord over the remaining issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) During their meeting on September 5-6, 2004, the Foreign Minister of India and Pakistan positively assessed the developments in India-Pakistan relations, and exchanged

views on carrying the process forward in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence.

The two Ministers agreed to a number of technical level meeting on various subjects, including, expert level meeting on Conventional and Nuclear CBMs, *inter alia*, to discuss the draft agreement on advance notification of missile tests; meeting between railway authorities on the Munnabao-Khokhrapar rail link; meeting between Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers; meeting between Narcotics Control Authorities, including for finalisation of an MOU; meeting between the Indian Coast Guards and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency to, *inter alia* discuss the Memorandum of Understanding for establishing communication link between them; and meeting on all issues related to commencement of a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad.

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They, *inter alia* agreed to continue with the serious and sustained dialogue, and reiterated the confidence that the Composite Dialogue will lead to peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues to the satisfaction of both sides. The process would also address any areas of differences and disagreement.

The process has been taken forward through high level meetings and visits, including the meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Musharraf in New York on September 24, 2004 and the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to New Delhi on November 23-24, 2004 in his capacity as the Chairperson of SAARC. Foreign Secretaries of the two countries are expected to meet in December, 2004 to initiate the next round of the Composite Dialogue.